Pending cases in Hyderabad High Court

437. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in Hyderabad High Court during the last five years in each category, year- wise;

(b) what has been the reasons for inordinate delay in disposing the case; and

(c) the steps Government have taken, so far, for their early disposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) As per available information, the number of cases pending in Andhra Pradesh High Court during last five years in two main categories are given below:

As on	Civil	Criminal
31/12/1996	1,32,191	3,430
31/12/1997	1,27,647	5,564
31/12/1998	1,38,271	7,580
31/12/1999	1,41,475	8,747
30/09/2000	1,48283	10,245

(b) The problem of pendency of cases in courts is due to various complex factors. These include vacant posts of judges, increase in the institution of cases on account of awareness of rights on the part of the citizens; enactment of numerous laws creating new rights and obligations, industrial development in the country and increase trade and commerce and emergence of socio-economic measures (legislative and administrative), touching the life of the citizens at all levels, population explosion, lawyers' strike etc.

(b) Various steps have been taken by the Government to fill up vacancies of judges and to simplify the procedure and speed up the disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies, like the Law Commission, the Malimath Committee etc. The Minister of Law. Justice and Compan> Affairs has been addressing the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court periodically for filling up of vcancies of judges in the Andhra Pradesh High Court. The last such communication was made in Februrary, 2001. Efforts also being made to adopt alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration, conciliation and settlement of cases through Lok Adalats.

The High Court of Andhra Pradesh has also taken various steps to reduce the pendency such as more practical categorisation and grouping of cases, to take up for hearing ail the cases listed for the particular day as far as possible, non-accumulation of defective matters, reservation of more and sufficient time slot for old pending cases in chronological order and streamlining of administration and man-power of the registry through computer network.

Appointment of High Court Judges from weaker sections

438. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have written letters to all State Chief Ministers directing them to recommend persons form weaker sections for appointment of judges in all High Courts;

(b) if so, the details of the communication written to the Chief Ministers;

(c) whether Government have received the response from the Chief Ministers of all the States and UTs; and

(d) if so, by when the final decision for appointment of judges in various High Courts from the weaker sections will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLY): (a) to (d) Appointment of Judges of the High Courts is made under article 217 of the Constitution of India which does not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. As per the existing procedure the Chief Justice of a High Court initiates a proposal for appointment of Judges. In view of the provisions of the constitution, direction cannot be issued for recommending names of persons belonging to any caste or class.

The Government have, however, addressed letters to the Chief Ministers of the States and the Chief Justices of the High Courts, from time to time, requesting them to locate persons from the Bar belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women who are suitable for appointment as High Court Judges.

Backlog of appeals pending in I.T.A.T.

439. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: